

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2016

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MU

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED

1. ON APRIL 11, NUMBER OF CABINET CHANGES ERE ANNOUNCED.  
ASSIM AL JAMALI (MINISTER OF HEALTH UNTIL NOBEMBER  
1974, AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO SINCE THAT  
TIME) IS TO REPLACE SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN AHMED AT RE-  
TITLED (AND PERHAPS EXPANDED) MINISTRY OF LAND AND  
MUNICIPALITY AFFAIRS. MOHAMMAD BIN AHMED, IN TURN,  
BECOMES MINISTER OF INTERIOR, REPLACING QABOOS' UNCLE,  
SAYYID FAHER BIN TAIMUR. SAYYID FAHER RETAINS HIS  
POSITION AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND IS ALSO  
NAMED TO BE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, A NEWLY-  
CREATED POSITION. SAYYID FAISAL BIN ALI LEAVES  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO BECOME MINISTER FOR NAT-  
IONAL HERITAGE--ANOTHER NEW POSITION. ONLY NEW FACE  
IS THAT OF AHMAD ABDULLAH AL GHAZALI, NAMED TO  
SUCCEED SAYYID FAISAL AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION.  
- &#-8 (SON OF FONMIN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL  
ABDULLAH SALIM AL GHAZALI) FORMERLY WAS INSPECTOR  
OF EDUCATION FRO SHARQIYYIA DISTRICT (BASED IN  
SUR). HE IS IMPRESSIVE, DEDICATED YOUNG MAN,  
AND EMBASSY WILL PROCEED WITH EARLIER PLANS TO  
ADD HIM TO OUR PLBRL.

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2. COMMENT: CABINET CHANGES HAD BEEN IN OFFING FOR SOME TIME. EVEN BEFORE LAST CHANGES IN NOVEMBER 1974, THERE WERE EFFORTS TO REMOVE SAYYID FAISAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. PRESENT "SOLUTION" FOLLOWS EARLIER PATTERN OF EXPANDING CABINET WITH RELATIVELY MEANINGLESS POSITIONS RATHER THAN GOING ALL THE WAY DEFINITIVELY TO REMOVE FORMER MINISTERS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY THE CASE WITH SAYYID FAISAL WHO, AS MEMBER OF ROYAL FAMILY, SEEMS TO HAVE RESISTED HIS OUSTER FROM MINED WITH GREATER VIGOR THAN HE PURSUED HIS MINISTERIAL FUNCTIONS. ALLEGEDLY, MOHAMMAD BIN AHMED SHIFTED FROM LAND AFFAIRS BECAUSE OF CORRUPTION AND REAL ESTATE SCANDALS. AL JAMALI IS APT TO BE BETTER ADMINISTRATOR, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY A CLEANSING AGENT, IN THAT MINISTRY. EMBASSY SEES NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN SAYYID FAHER'S RELINQUISHMENT OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR PORTFOLIO; FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, HE FOUND THIS TO BE ONEROUS DUTY AT BEST.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 14 APR 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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